## INTERVIEW SUMMARY Work Assignment ES002 Lower Darby Creek Area Site



### **Richard Conway**

Prepared for:

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III

Enforcement Support Services Hazardous Site Cleanup Division 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

Prepared by:

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Work Assignment Number:
Date Submitted:
Contract Number:
EPA Work Assignment Manager:
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ES002 November 23, 2001 68-S3-01-01 Carlyn Winter Prisk (215) 814-2625 Eric D. Bailey (215) 923-0899 Michael McCloskey, Tri-State Enterprise

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**Interview Summary** Richard Conway

Name:

Richard Conway (WITNESS)

C/O GE Company, 6901 Elmwood Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19153

Affiliation:

Current Employee

Telephone:

In-Person

Type of Interview:

Date of Interview:

November 13, 2001

On November 13, 2001, the WITNESS was interviewed at the law offices of Wolf, Block, Schorr by Michael McCloskey of Tri-State Enterprise. The WITNESS was interviewed as part of the potentially responsible party search currently being conducted under Work Assignment NO. ES-002 involving the Lower Darby Creek Area, Delaware County, PA (the "Site"). This interview focused on the Clearview Landfill (Clearview) and the Folcroft Landfill (Folcroft). The WITNESS was provided with a copy of the letter of introduction. advised of the nature of the questions to be asked and advised that the interview was voluntary. The WITNESS advised that he is not represented by an attorney in this matter and did not want an attorney. This interview was not tape-recorded. The following individuals were also present and participated in this interview.

- Steve Niomie: Attorney representing General Electric Corporation.(GE)
- Brian Nishitani: Attorney for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III. (USEPA)
- Carlyn Prisk: Civil Investigator for the USEPA, Region III.

During the course of this interview, the WITNESS responded to questions based on guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for current employees.

The WITNESS was shown a map and sketch of both the Folcroft Landfill and the clearview Landfill. These maps were used throughout the interview as reference material.

The WITNESS was asked to explain his association with the Folcroft Landfill.

The WITNESS reviewed the map and sketch of the Folcroft Landfill and stated that he had never been to this Landfill. The WITNESS stated that he had disposed of GE waste at a dump located off of Hook Road.

The WITNESS was shown a map of the Clearview Landfill and the WITNESS stated that this was the dump that he had transported GE waste to.

The WITNESS was asked to explain his employment with GE.

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The WITNESS stated that he had been employed by GE at the plant known as the Elmwood Facility, located at 6901 Elmwood Avenue, Philadelphia, PA from 1966 to the present. The WITNESS stated that from 1966 to 1976 he worked in the salvage department. The WITNESS stated that the salvage department was responsible for separating metal and saving any metal that had value.

When asked to explain his involvement with transporting waste to the Clearview Landfill the WITNESS stated that from 1966 to about 1970 the GE Plant utilized an incinerator, known as the fire hole, to burn wood from shipping crates. The WITNESS stated that any wood that was too large to fit in the incinerator was transported to the Clearview Landfill. He indicated that because he was a junior employee at the time he was given the job of assisting the dump truck driver that transported the wood to Clearview.

The WITNESS stated that about one time each day he would assist the dump truck driver in loading the dump truck with wood and would ride with the dump truck driver to the Clearview Landfill and assist in disposing of the wood at the Landfill. The witness described the dump truck as small and estimated that the capacity was 12 cubic yards. He indicated that the truck would be covered with a tarp during the transportation of the wood to the Landfill.

When asked to identify the location the this waste was disposed of on the attached map of the Clearview Landfill the WITNESS stated that he entered the Landfill from Hook Road and drove to a spot on the Landfill that was located approximately 100 feet south of Darby Creek. The WITNESS identified this location on the attached map.

When asked if he stopped at a shack upon entering, the WITNESS stated that there was no shack or area to stop at. When asked if anyone on the Landfill gave him or the dump truck driver a ticket or receipt for using the Landfill, the WITNESS stated "No".

When asked how GE was billed or charged for disposing of waste at the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS stated that he did not know.

When asked if he observed any individuals working on the Landfill, the WITNESS stated that there was always a bulldozer operating on the Landfill to cover waste.

When asked the names of any Landfill employees, the WITNESS stated that he did not know the names of anyone who worked on the Landfill.

When asked if he had observed other trucks disposing of waste on the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS stated that there was usually heavy truck traffic entering the Clearview Landfill, however he could not recall any names on these trucks. He indicated that most of the trucks he observed disposing of waste on the Landfill were dump trucks.

When asked the names of the dump truck drivers that transported waste from GE to the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS provided the following.

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- Taus Pritchert: The WITNESS stated that Mr. Pritchert was the only dump truck driver that he worked with. He indicated that Mr. Pritchert was in his 50s or 60s in 1966.

When asked who was responsible for the incinerator at GE, the WITNESS stated that the incinerator operation, as well as all waste collection and removal, was the responsibility of the transportation department. When asked the names of any individuals that worked in the transportation department, the WITNESS provided the following.

- John Nolan
- Ed Galota

The WITNESS stated that both of these individuals are retired and he does not know there whereabouts.

The WITNESS stated that the GE Elmwood Facility employed about 9,000 people during the 1960s and 1970s and that the Facility currently has about 800 employees.

When asked where he picked up the wood at the GE facility, the WITNESS stated that the wood was located at the incinerator. He indicated that pieces of wood that would not fit in the incinerator were placed on the ground and would be picked up by the dump truck driver at that location.

When asked how the incinerator ash was disposed of, the WITNESS stated that the incinerator was cleaned out one time each week and that he and the dump truck driver also disposed of the incinerator ash at the Clearview Landfill about one time each week. The WITNESS stated that the incinerator was closed in about 1970.

When asked how other GE waste was disposed of at the GE Elmwood Facility, the WITNESS stated that in 1966 to at least 1970 the GE Facility had a large roll-off trash container located off 67<sup>th</sup> Street. He indicated that this container was picked up two times each day and another empty roll-off container was dropped off. The WITNESS described these roll-off containers as 20-40 cubic yards. He indicated that the following Trash Company picked up this roll-off container in the 1960s.

- Tri-County Hauling.

When asked the names of any of the drivers for Tri-County Hauling the WITNESS stated that he did not know any of the drivers. The WITNESS reiterated that trash removal would have been the responsibility of the transportation department.

When asked to describe the types of waste in the roll-off containers, the WITNESS stated that other than wood he did not know. When asked if the roll-off containers were being used by GE during the same period of time that the incinerator was in use, the WITNESS stated yes.

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When asked if the GE Elmwood Facility generated any liquid waste, the witness stated that the only liquid that he was aware of that was used at the GE Elmwood Facility was dashpot oil that was used in circuit breakers. He did not know if this oil was disposed of.

"I declare under penalty of perjury that	at the foregoing is true and correct."	
Executed on	Signed	
(Date)	(Name)	

#### Interviewer's Comments and Suggested Follow-up Interviews

<u>Interviewer Comments:</u> The Witness was cooperative. He did not transport any waste to the Folcroft Landfill.

The witness indicated that he entered the Clearview Landfill from Hook Road. According to William Soper, all truck traffic that entered the Landfill used 84<sup>th</sup> Street as the main entrance. It is possible that Hook road was used by dump trucks. I will follow-up with this with Mr. Soper.

The witness stated that Tri-County Hauling picked the roll-off container waste at GE in the late 1960s. According to Ed Mullen Jr., all waste picked up by Tri-County Hauling was transported to the Folcroft Landfill until about 1976. This would place the GE waste at the Folcroft Landfill.

<u>Suggested follow-up Interviews:</u> The witness provided the names of the following individuals that may have relevant knowledge of waste disposal practices at GE.

- Taus Pritchert
- John Nolan
- Ed Galota

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